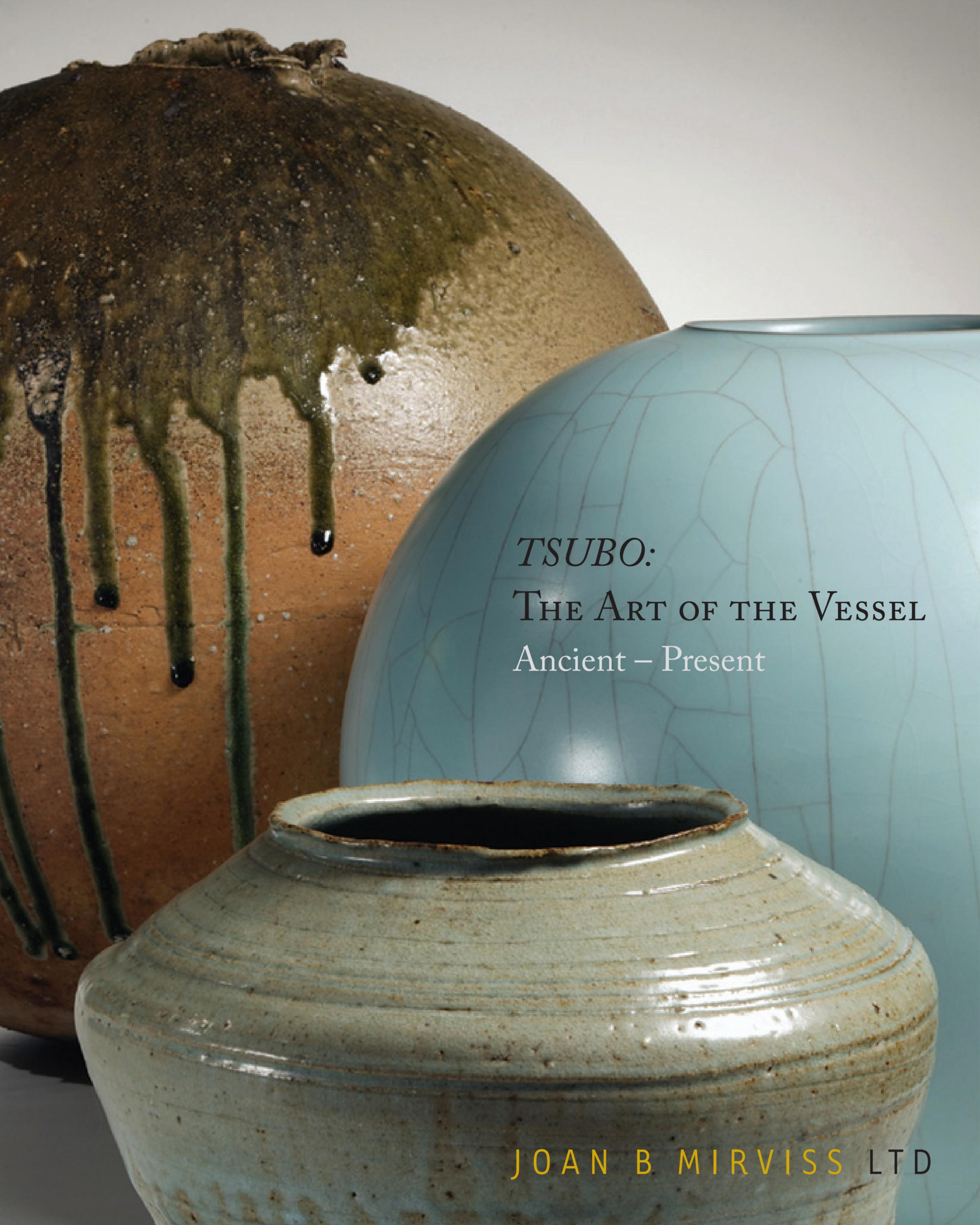


TSUBO:
The Art of the Vessel
Ancient – Present

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD



OKABE MINEO (1919-1990)
Shino tsubo Mineo; Shino Vessel by Mineo
1954
Glazed stoneware
16 1/8 x 14 1/2 x 14 1/2 inches

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Presented at Joan B Mirviss LTD, New York
Collaboration with Shibuya Kurodatoen Co., LTD
March 13 – April 24, 2015



With its unparalleled and unbroken history in ceramics, Japan continues to lead the world in the exciting field of contemporary clay art. *Tsubo: The Art of the Vessel* focuses on the classical form of the *tsubo*, or storage jar, chronicling its uninterrupted history from ancient to modern times, and examining its role in shaping the greater ceramic narrative of Japan and clay art the world over. Indeed, *tsubo,* celebrated for their purity, sensuousness of shape and evocative surfaces, may be viewed as the quintessence of Japanese ceramic art.

The finest of medieval clay vessels were *tsubo*, typically coil-built, rounded, often irregular, forms with narrow, upraised mouths in stoneware that were wood-fired at high temperatures. The so-called Six Ancient Kilns (Bizen, Echizen, Seto, Shigaraki, Tamba and Tokoname) were the primary sources for these works and continue to be so to this day. For connoisseurs, the beauty of *tsubo* lies in their inherent strength and rustic simplicity; the more imperfect, the more desirable, as the imperfections are what give a vessel its identity.

With the rise of the military classes in Japan in the sixteenth century, the demand for more refined ceramics increased, leading to technical developments in production and firing largely brought from Korea. New styles and types of ceramics were developed, which included *karatsu, oribe, shino*, Chinese-inspired wares, and porcelain production. Starting in the seventeenth century, surface decoration, both subtle and gorgeous, with an emphasis on color and line, became increasingly popular, allowing artists to sign their works for the first time and to be more inventive.

Admired through the centuries, literary texts and historical documents have alluded to this form, extolling their beauty as receptacles for the secrets of the universe. Japanese poets, critics, collectors and scholars have referred to *tsubo* as works to be fondled and stroked, often identifying themselves with these seductive containers to the point of losing themselves to their inner world. Chips, cracks, and adhesions are all viewed as assets, adding to the hidden beauty of such vessels.

In addition to their ancestral and poetic associations, the bold *tsubo* forms have provided the perfect platform for innovative artistic experimentation, whether playful or reverential, for traditional masters and avant-garde Japanese ceramists alike. The existence of these broader connotations within the context of the form's inherent gravitas has allowed developments surrounding these wares to expose the vitality underlying the entirety of Japanese ceramics.

Once again, we are delighted to be partnering with Shibuya Kurodatoen Co., Ltd., the leading modern ceramic dealer in Japan.



Left page: Mori Tōgaku (b. 1937) shown left to right: *Kokuji henko,* Black Bizen Flattened Vessel; *Kokuji tō,* Black Bizen Tubular Vessel; *Kokuji sankakuko,* Black Bizen Triangular Vase. See p. 9.



MIHARA KEN (b. 1958)
Sekki kodō; Stoneware Pulse
2012
Multi-fired unglazed stoneware
14 x 13 7/8 x 9 1/4 inches



Yayoi Neolithic vessel with raised mouth
2nd to 3rd century AD
Earthenware
8 1/2 x 8 3/8 inches



HAMADA SHŌJI (1894-1978)
Ameyū monuchi kabin; Caramel-colored
Iron-glazed Vase with Stamped Pattern
ca. 1945-1950
Glazed stoneware
10 1/2 x 7 7/8 inches



TSUJIMURA SHIRŌ (b. 1947)
Shizenyū ōtsubo; Natural Ash-glazed Large Vessel
ca. 1985
Stoneware with natural ash glaze
19 1/8 x 18 5/8 x 18 inches



Shigaraki vessel with natural ash glaze
15-16th century
Glazed stoneware
16 1/2 x 15 1/8 inches



Bizen vessel with kiln effects
Late 16th century
Stoneware
11 1/2 x 10 inches

MORI TŌGAKU (b. 1937)
Kokuji henko; Black Bizen Flattened Vessel
1990
Unglazed *Bizen* stoneware
10 1/2 x 6 1/4 inches



MORI TŌGAKU (b. 1937)
Kokuji sankakuko; Black Bizen Triangular Vase
1990
Unglazed *Bizen* stoneware
11 x 6 1/4 inches

MORI TŌGAKU (b. 1937)
Kokuji tō; Black Bizen Tubular Vessel
1990
Unglazed *Bizen* stoneware
15 x 7 1/2 inches





MORI TŌGAKU (b. 1937)
Saiɔoki; Painted Earthenware Vessel
1980s
Earthenware with painted decoration
9 x 6 3/4 inches



KAKUREZAKI RYŪICHI (b. 1950)
Kuro kabin; Black Bizen Vase
2009
Stoneware
14 x 13 inches



Shigaraki vessel with incised pattern
15-16th century
Stoneware
14 x 10 5/8 inches



KISHIMOTO KENNIN (b. 1934)
Iga tsubo "Uzukumaru"; Iga-style Vessel titled "Crouching"
2012
Glazed stoneware
7 5/8 x 8 1/8 inches

HORI ICHIRŌ (b. 1952)
Kiseto henko; Yellow Seto
Flattened Vessel
2010
Yellow-glazed stoneware
12 1/4 x 10 3/4 x 9 3/4 inches





NAKAGAWA JINENBŌ
(1953-2011)
Ao karatsu ōtsubo; Large Vessel with Green *Karatsu* Glaze
2011
Glazed stoneware
17 x 15 3/4 inches



KOIE RYŌJI (b. 1938)
Oribe tsubo; Green *Oribe* Vessel
ca. 2000
Glazed stoneware
10 3/8 x 8 1/4 inches



NISHIHATA TADASHI (b. 1948)
Shizenyū ki; Natural Ash-glazed Vessel
2012
Glazed stoneware
13 x 11 7/8 x 12 5/8 inches



KITAŌJI ROSANJIN (1883-1959)
Oribe hanaire; Green *Oribe* Vase
ca. 1955
Glazed stoneware
6 7/8 x 6 inches



KAWAI KANJIRŌ (1890-1966)
Sansai shishimon ko; Sansai Vessel with Lion-dog Designs
ca. 1920s
Glazed stoneware
12 5/8 x 10 3/8 inches



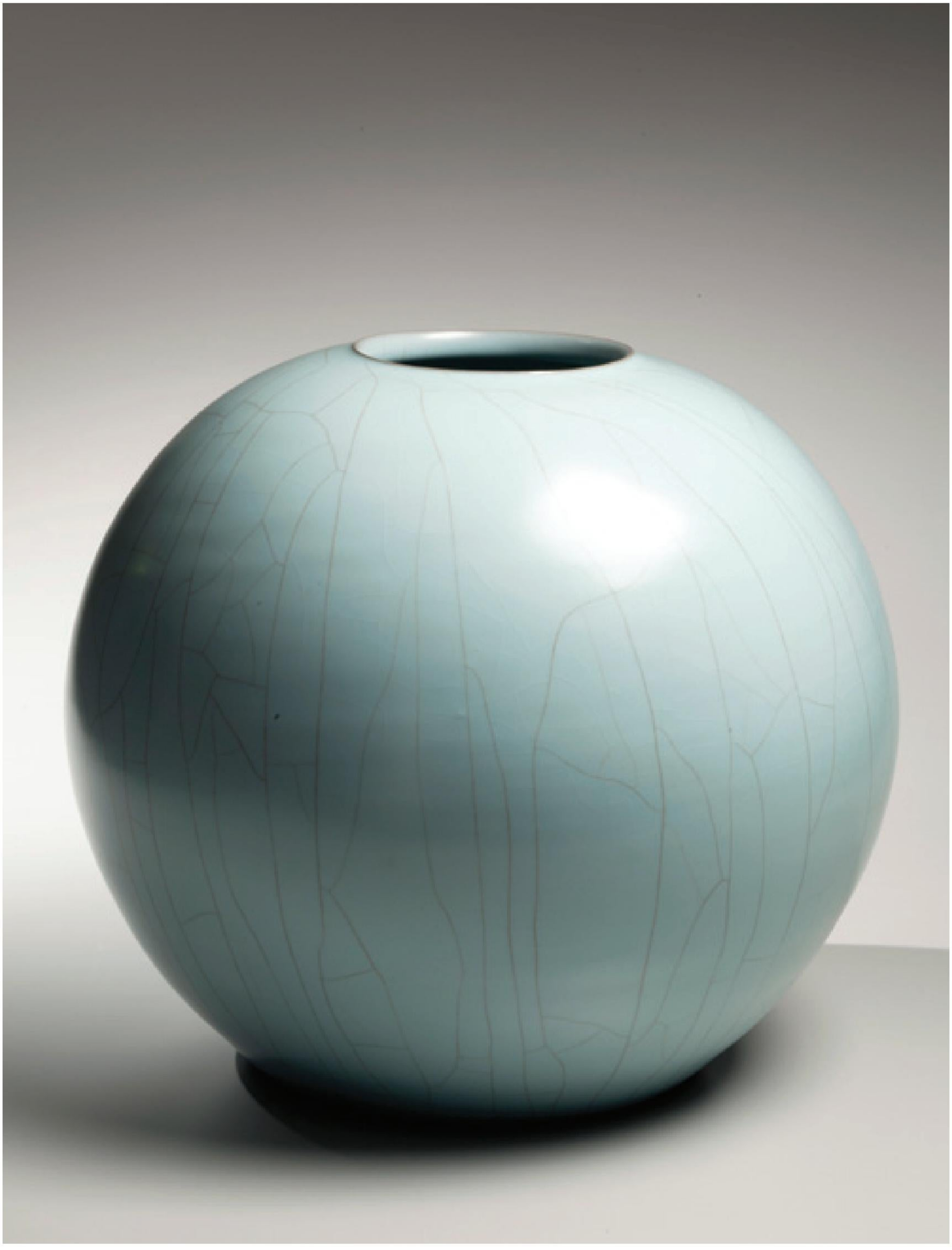
HOSHINO SATORU (b. 1945)
Spring Snow 11-12
2011
Glazed stoneware
14 1/2 x 14 1/4 inches



OKABE MINEO (1919-1990)
Karatsu tsubo; Karatsu Ash-glazed Vessel
1955
Glazed stoneware
8 1/2 x 10 inches



TSUJIMURA SHIRŌ (b. 1947)
Shizenyū marutsubo; Round Vase with Natural Ash Glaze
2013
Stoneware with natural ash glaze
16 7/8 x 17 inches



SUZUKI SANSEI (b. 1936)
Seiji tsubo; Celadon-glazed Vessel
1988
Porcelainous stoneware with celadon glaze
13 x 15 1/8 inches



KIMURA YOSHIRŌ (b. 1946)
Hekiyūrenmon ko; Blue-glazed Vessel with Rippling Wave Pattern
2014
Porcelain with cobalt-blue glaze
16 1/4 x 19 inches



OGATA KAMIO (b. 1949)
Neriage shinogi tsubo; Pleated-surface Marbleized Vessel
2014
Marbleized colored-clay stoneware
10 7/8 x 11 inches



MATSUI KŌSEI (1927-2003)
Neriage tsubo "Seisō"; Marbleized Vessel titled "Blue Thoughts"
1988
Marbleized colored-clay stoneware
12 x 13 1/2 inches



ITŌ HIDEHITO (b. 1971)
Hakuji tsubo; White Porcelain Vessel
2013
Glazed porcelain
10 7/8 x 12 1/4 inches



YAMADA HIKARU (1923-2001)
Hakuji tsubo; White-glazed Vessel
ca. 1980s
Glazed porcelain
12 3/8 x 10 7/8 inches



UCHIDA KOUICHI (b. 1969)
Kasai tsubo; Glazed Vessel
2014
Matte white-glazed stoneware
12 3/8 x 17 3/8 inchesa



FURUKAWA TAKAHISA (b. 1940)
Yūsai yamabudōmon ko; Glaze-painted
Wild Grape Patterned Vessel
1998
Glazed stoneware
13 3/4 x 16 3/8 inches



KINKŌZAN SŌBEI VII (1867-1927)
Hiꜩhokuyū kabin "Nōzenkazura"; Scarlet-glazed Vase "Chinese Trumpet Vine"
ca. 1910
Stoneware with *kyōyaki* glaze
13 1/8 x 11 7/8 inches



FUJIMOTO NŌDŌ (YOSHIMICHI) (1919-1992)
Aka-e hanatꜩubo; Red Enamel-glazed Flower Vessel
ca. 1965
Glazed stoneware
10 3/4 x 10 1/4 inches



EIRAKU KŌICHI (b. 1944)
Kinginsai hanaire; Gold and Silver-glazed Vase
1993
Glazed stoneware
16 3/8 x 10 1/4 inches



KONDŌ YŪZŌ (1902-1985)
Yama sometsuke kabin; Blue-and-white Porcelain Vase with Landscape Design
Early 1970s
Porcelain with cobalt underglaze
8 7/8 x 8 3/8 inches



ISHIGURO MUNEMARO (1893-1968)
Tetsue tsubo: Iron-glazed Vessel
ca. 1968
Glazed stoneware
7 1/8 x 3 3/4 inches



ISHIGURO MUNEMARO (1893-1968)
Perusha kurotsubo; Persian Black Vase
ca. 1960
Glazed stoneware
7 x 6 inches



YAGI KAZUO (1918-1979)
Hakuzōgan hanatsubo; White Slip-inlaid Flower Vessel
1971
Glazed stoneware
6 1/2 x 9 5/8 inches



YAGI KAZUO (1918-1979)
Circular vessel with incised flying crane motif
ca. 1959
Glazed stoneware
7 7/8 x 8 3/8 inches



KAMODA SHŌJI (1933-1983)
Lobed vessel with blue and black enamel-glazed geometric pattern
1976
Glazed stoneware
6 3/4 x 6 1/8 x 7 1/2 inches



KAMODA SHŌJI (1933-1983)
Standing vessel with blue and white striped enamel glazing
1978
Glazed stoneware
21 3/8 x 14 1/2 x 8 inches



KAMODA SHŌJI (1933-1983)
Rectangular vessel with abstract calligraphic matte patterning
1973
Slip-glazed stoneware
14 x 9 7/8 x 5 3/8 inches



KURIKI TATSUSUKE (1943-2013)
Ginkōsaijimon kaki; Silver-glazed
Red-painted Patterned Vase
1988
Stoneware with resist-applied iron-slip with silver glaze
11 x 8 1/2 inches





KURIKI TATSUSUKE (1943-2013)
Ginryokusaimon henko; Silver-green-glazed Patterned Irregular Vessel
1988
Glazed stoneware
11 3/8 x 10 1/4 inches

Names are given in Japanese sequence with family name first.

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held at Joan B Mirviss LTD, New York from March 13 – April 24, 2015

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